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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 /058 W
---------- 126667
R 241435Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3200

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: PRESSURE ON PRESS

1. PRESS SOURCES TOLD EMBOFF POLICE RAIDED THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD'S OFFICES LAST NIGHT (OCT 22) AND DETAINED NEWS EDITOR ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL. REPORTEDLY, COMMUNIQUES ISSUED BY SUBVERSIVE GROUPS TO VARIOUS NEWS MEDIA WERE CONFISCATED. THIS IS THE LATEST IN A RUN OF INCIDENTS BETWEEN AUTHORITIES AND NEWS MEDIA.

2. BA HERALD EDITOR ROBERT COX TOLD EMBOFF THIS MORNING THAT NO CHARGES WERE MADE AGAINST GRAHAM-YOOLL, WHO WAS RELEASED THIS MORNING (OCT 23). COX SAID AUTHORITIES ONLY WANTED GRAHAM-YOOLL FOR IDENTIFICATION AND QUESTIONING.

3. OCTOBER 18 ANA BASUALDO, WELL KNOWN EDITORIAL ABRIL FASHION WRITER, WAS KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP OF MEN. ACCORDING TO MISS BASUALDO'S ACCOUNT, CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS, HER CAPTORS INTER-CEPTED HER WHEN SHE WAS LEAVING HER RESIDENCE AND FORCED HER TO RE-ENTER HER APARTMENT, WHICH THEY RANSACKED. THEY ACCUSED HER OF BEING A "BOLSHIE". BASUALDO SAYS SHE WAS THEN TAKEN BLINDFOLDED TO AN OFFICE IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES WHERE SHE WAS INTERRO-GATED REGARDING AN ARTICLE SHE WROTE TWO YEARS AGO ON AN OCCULT SECT OF WHICH LOPEZ REGA WAS A MEMBER. SHE SAYS HER CAPTORS THEN BEAT HER AND THREATENED TO KILL HER. AFTER GOING THROUGH ALL THE
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MOTIONS TO PREPARE TO SHOOT HER, THEY AT LAST MINUTE SAID ORDERS

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CHANGED AND RELEASED HER.

4. ALSO THIS WEEK TWO SMALL TOWN NEWSPAPER PEOPLE WERE REPORTED KIDNAPPED OUTSIDE BUENOS AIRES. LAST NIGHT THE BODIES OF A MAN AND A WOMAN WERE FOUND IN THIS SAME AREA. IDENTIFICATION NOT YET MADE BUT NEWS SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF IT IS BELIEVED THE CORPSES ARE THOSE OF THE MISSING PERSONS.

5. COMMENT. IT NOT APPARENT AS YET IF THESE INCIDENTS REPRESENT A WELL ORCHESTRATED EFFORT OF AUTHORITIES AND RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS TO COERCE NEWS MEDIA TO RESTRAIN THEMSELVES FROM CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT. THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD STAFF IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE AND FEELS IT WAS AN UNIMPORTANT INCIDENT. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT RIGHT-WING MEDIA ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED NOTICEABLY IN RECENT DAYS, HIGHLIGHTED BY THE REAPPEARANCE OF THE EXTREME RIGHT-WING WEEKLY EL CAUDILLO, WHICH RESUMED PUBLICATION OCT 16 WITH A FRONTAL ATTACK ON "LEFTIST" NEWS MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT CRITICS IN GENERAL. EL CAUDILLO'S SLOGAN IS "THE BEST ENEMY IS A DEAD ONE". AND EDITOR FELIPE ROMEO, IN CASTIGATING ANTI-VERTICALISTAS, RECENTLY DECLARED "ISABEL IS THE LEADER; THEREFORE, SHE IS ALWAYS RIGHT".
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
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